granted when death occurs (a) enemy action, international war or Border skirmishes and (b) action against militants, terrorist, and extremists.

An *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 5 lakh is given as assistance to the families of J&K Plice personnel killed in terrorist attacks (Rs. 2 lakhs is paid by the State Government and reimbursed by SRE (Security Related Expenditure) while Rs. 3 lakh is paid directly by MHA).

Deadlock in Talks with Hurriyat Leaders

2287. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks between the Centre and Hurriyat leaders on Kashmir have ended into a deadlock after Centres rejection of Hurriyat's proposals to have talks direct with the Prime Minister and a dialogue with Pakistan before the third round of talks with the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Steps to prevent floods

2288. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of pre-emptive measures the flood situation in North-East and Bihar has worsened;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to rescue the marooned people; and

(d) the details of the long-term measures taken to prevent floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Measures for flood control are primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government assists the efforts of the States by providing financial support, wherever

required. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Bihar were affected by floods due to incessant rains and heavy precipitation in the catchment areas of the rivers in the neighbouring countries. As a result, a number of rivers and their tributaries crossed their previous highest floods levels.

(c) The Central Government assisted the Governments of Assam and Bihar by providing 37 columns of Army with powered boats and 17 helicopters. The State Governments had also deployed their Teams and the Boats for the purpose.

(d) Floods are a perennial problem in North-East and Bihar. The Hon'ble Prime Minister had visited Assam and Bihar and on his directions a Task Force for Flood Management/Erosion Control has been set up recently by the Ministry of Water Resources to suggest short-term and long-term measures for flood control, as also the sources of funding.

Stoning to death of a HIV affected woman

2289. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an investigation was conducted by the National Commission for Women into the alleged incident of stoning to death of a woman affected by HIV/AIDS in Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the investigation; and

(c) the action taken on the recommendations of the National Commission for Women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Commission for Women (NCW) made a *suo moto* enquiry into the case of a woman suffering from HIV/AIDS allegedly stoned to death in Kuppam village in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh on 3rd July, 2003. The investigation did not find any corroboration of the reports about stoning or poisoning of the woman. The commission had made several recommendations mainly with regard to the working of the AIDS control programme and for more sensitive dealing of AIDS victim by all agencies.